

OPEN BASEBALL SEASON LATER, SAYS CAPT. HUSTON OF YANKEES

Baseball Magnates Are Coming to See Unwisdom of Early Opening of Season, Causing Fans Much Discomfort Because of Rain and Cold and Greatly Reducing Attendance; Many Postponements.

By FRANK G. MENKE

NEW YORK, May 5.—Capt. Tillinghast Huston has taken a stand against the present early opening of the baseball season. The Yankee owner suggests that the baseball season be opened about April 26, instead of around the 12th, as at present.

"But I would advocate a decrease in the number of games played," said Huston. "By opening the season on the 26th it would mean cutting off 14 playing days. Those games could be worked in by having double headers each week, say on Monday or Friday."

Experience has shown that it is foolhardy to start the season before the middle of April. I cannot recall one year when the weather during early and middle April was baseball weather. It either has rained or snowed or been too cold. That has meant many postponements. Even on days when the teams have been able to play, attendance has been reduced to bare handfuls because the fans do not wish to risk pneumonia.

Other Share Same View.
There are several other magnates in the big league who share Huston's views. Clyde Ebbets is one of the newest converts to the later opening faith. As in bygone days Ebbets was the staunchest supporter of the early opening.

Huston's idea of a later opening without cutting the number of games seems to solve the big problem, and

it is possible that the plan may be adopted next winter.

20,000 at Six Games.
One of the best examples of the wisdom of the early opening has been shown in New York. Over a stretch of six playing days the total attendance at the Yankee games was in the neighborhood of 50,000 despite the fact that the world champion Red Sox were part of the attraction for that period.

The sole reason for the low attendance was cold weather. On two of the days it was so cold that the few hardy fans in the stands had to stamp their feet and jump around to keep warm.

Twenty thousand persons in six days, an average of under 3,000 per day. Had those same games been played on warm, sunny days, the chances are that the attendance would have been at least 50,000.

800 at Washington Game.
What happened in New York has come about in other cities during early April. One of the Washington games in the capital city drew only about 800, because of the cold. At least a dozen games have been postponed because of cold weather.

A dozen or more have been called off because of rain or wet grounds. One game between the Giants and Braves in Boston wasn't played because it snowed.

In other years the sad lessons of the past didn't teach anything to the magnates. But this season takes rank as one of the worst of all—and a reform may come which will bring about later openings in the future.

OLD JUDGE RUMHAUSER

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JUDGE ALEXANDER RUMHAUSER TRAINS FOR HIS FIRST MEETING WITH SILK HAT HARRY WHOSE LETTERS PANNED HIS WORKING.



DISGUISED AS LORD DUNDREARY WITH FALSE GOGGLES.

SHERLOCK HOLMES THE GREAT TUSSEYFOOT DETECTIVE WHO IS RUNNING DOWN ETTA LOTT'S PAST ON A MOTORCYCLE—HE IS NOT UP TO IT YET.

SCANDAL PROMISED.

ETTA LOTT THE BEAUTY WHO WAS GIVEN RINGS AND A LOT OF ATTENTION BY SILK HAT HARRY TURNS OVER MORE LETTERS. SOME ARE SO WARM THEY HAVE TO BE WRAPPED UP IN AISLES.



THEM MEN IS SUCH LIARS OH DI MI—WROTE TO BERTILLE FAIRFAX TOO.

SNAPSHOT OF ETTA LOTT TAKEN IN HER HUMBLE COTTAGE ON FRANKFURTER ROW. SHE STOPPED ON THE FAMILY WASHING—A MOMENT TO POSE FOR THIS.

HARRY DEFIANT SAYS THAT IF HE'S TO BE MADE THE GOAT OF HELL SQUERL AND TURN COPPER ON A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO ARE POSING AS DEACONS AND THE LIKE SAYS HE'LL RATTLE MANY A SKELETON.



ON DI MI MY HEART IS BREAKING.

TEARS IN THE VOICE.



PAUL FEDINK THE JON DODGER WHO INTRODUCED HARRY TO ETTA LOTT.



PHOTO OF SILK HARRY HIDING BEHIND A CORKSCREEN—HIS WIFE SAW THAT TO THE JUDGE.

POOLISH BLACKSTONE WHO HAS BEEN HIRED BY HARRY TO HELP SELL UP THE CASE.

Weak Nationals By 21-Player Limit League Was Outclassed Last Year

By JOHN E. WRAY

ST. LOUIS, Mo., May 5.—If the National league is to remain a real factor in world's war competition its leaders should stop and consider—yes, and reconsider—their stand on that 21-player limit rule, now costing Charles Weegman of the Cubs so much agony and telegraph tolls.

While temporary economy may demand retrenchment on the part of National league clubs, the limitation of players is making for a general weakness of all the teams in the National league.

John McGraw has already complained that he can't build up a winner with 21 men and a bunch of "one contracts in care for." Other managers are finding themselves in the same plight, and the chance that general strength of the league is being raised is small. On the contrary it is the prevailing belief of ball men that the class of the organization as a whole will suffer.

N. L. Outclassed in 1915?

The National league last year was outclassed by the American, if popular left. The 1916 Americans certainly held a Phillips safe every step of the way.

A succession of defeats for National league clubs at the hands of their rivals would greatly weaken interest in the biggest sporting event known to the United States.

It would therefore seem to be bad policy to weaken the league as a whole and to reduce the overwhelming power of the New York club for the sake of a dubious economy.

Give yourselves a chance, Messrs. Tenor & Co.

No Fool Like an Old One.

JOE CORBETT must be a very doddering person. Fans who remember the Baltimore Orioles of 1917 will see Joe favorably in mind as perhaps the most effective member of the club's hurling corps that season. At that time Joe was no boy. It was only a short time thereafter that he passed on and out of the major league scene, not again to be remembered in 1918, when Charles Kid Nichols led to bring him back as a member of the St. Louis Cardinals. Joe did not get a second chance, turned or forced in his league form, and again

Spring Football Fever.

YEAR-ROUND football work has hit Washington university. So far as the weather conditions have permitted the gridiron warriors at Washington, especially the backfield men, have been taking a leaf out of the preparedness book.

Edmunds has just returned from Michigan with an earful from coach Yost, who has his eleven ready for spring scrimmage work already.

If teams were available no doubt practice games would be played. Coach Stiehm, now of Indiana and late of the Nebraska eleven wanted Edmunds to enter into an arrangement with him for an April game, last year.

The growth of the spring training idea for football men has been notable. In the last five years. Prior to that time the gridiron was dropped immediately after the fall season closed and not revived in any organized manner until the following fall.

What with the year on the freshman and the spring training before his second football season begins, the new football star is now pretty thoroughly tested out before the time when the eligibility rules permit him a chance to get into the game.

DILLON IS OFFERED \$20,000 TO FIGHT AUSTRALIAN CHAMP

MILWAUKEE, Wis., May 5.—A telegram received here from Sydney, Australia, authorized an offer to Jack Dillon of Indianapolis of \$20,000 to box Les Darcy 20 rounds at Sydney. The proposition was wired to Dillon.

ARE OUT AFTER WELSH'S TITLE



CHARLEY WHITE AND BENNY LEONARD.

It begins to look as if there are two lightweights who will do a great deal toward bringing the class back to the preeminence it enjoyed in the good old days of Joe Gans, abetting good old days of Joe Gans, battling Everybody has been somewhat disgusted with the modern crop of lightweights since Freddie Welsh grabbed the class title and started his long and tiresome career of ten rounds, no decision bouts.

Now that Benny Leonard, of New York, has developed a punch, there are just two men in the class who undoubtedly are too good for Freddie Welsh over a 20 round or longer route. Those boys are Leonard, a comparative newcomer, and Charley White, of Chicago, who for two years has been hot on Freddie's trail for a long bout.

Ed W. Smith, premier fight expert

of Chicago and a referee of national fame, sums up as follows the reasons why Leonard and White should be matched for a 20 round battle, with Welsh pound by a hard and fast agreement to meet the winner over the same distance. Smith says:

"Both Leonard and White are punchers of the old school. Both have scored knockouts galore and impressed the fans with the idea that possibly either of them, in a long contest, might be able to hang over that K. O. on the main from Wales."

"Why not find out which is the better man as between the two fighting 'heavyweights'?" It's a match that is being discussed all over the country and one that just now would attract the real interest.

There wouldn't be a bit of trouble finding a place and a fat purse. Why not go to it?

"There isn't a chance in the world—apparently—of taking Fred's title away from him in a ten round battle. That could be done only by somebody hanging a knockout punch on his jaw inside of the ten round limit. Everyone of the good lightweights has tried it and every one has failed. White had three cracks at it and couldn't begin to put it over. There was a suspicion created in at least two of these battles that if the affairs had gone on to 20 rounds White might have landed a punch that would have had him out of the game."

Leonard had his chances in ten rounds the other night in New York. He didn't even knock Welsh down. Nobody else has performed that trick, either. Several of them have been credited with having "beaten" Welsh in ten rounds, but that doesn't get the title away from him.

"There are lots of other lightweights besides Leonard and White, but they are the two real punchers of the division."

"If they settled the question in 20 rounds there wouldn't be the ghost of a chance for Freddie Welsh to decline to meet the winner in a title match."

"Why not have it settled? It's the match everybody wants to see."

COLORADO UNIVERSITY BEATS AGGIES IN FIELD MEET

Fort Collins, Colo., May 5.—The University of Colorado defeated the Colorado Agricultural college in the annual track and field conference meet here Thursday, 54 to 48. In actual points scored the two teams were tied, but three forfeited events gave the victory to Boulder athletes. No exceptional time was made. A ball game between the two colleges is to be played today.

In Boyland:

BECAUSE of the annual track meet of the Grammar Schools Athletic league at Washington park on Saturday, the Oklahoms will be unable to accept the challenge of the Las Cruces Braves for a game Saturday afternoon in this city but they will be glad to accommodate the up-valley team for a game on Saturday, May 13, on any grounds or at any hour that will suit the Braves.

The Las Cruces Juniors report that they will be glad to play the El Paso Red Sox in Las Cruces on Sunday, May

School Sports, Juvenile Sports, Boys' Amateur Sports, and News and Gossip of the "Future Grunts." BY "BECK."

and would like to hear from the Red Sox at once so that arrangements can be made for the grounds.

There will be few local ball games among the boys' teams on Saturday. Every youngster in town intends to take in the Grammar schools track meet, either as a participant or as a spectator.

Several requests have been made to this department that a boys' league be formed to run all summer. How many teams will enter if a league is formed? Managers asking franchises must state the ages and weights of their players. If enough teams apply, it may be that two good divisions can be formed.

There are other sports but none just like Tennis.

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